

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present patent application is respectfully requested. Claims 1-13 are currently pending in this application. By the amendment, claims 1, 4, 8, 10 and 13 have been amended.

I. Claim Informalities

Claims 1, 4, 8, 10 and 13 have been amended in accordance with the Office Action to cure the informalities in the claim language.

II. Rejection Under §102 - Raymond

The Office Action rejected the claims 1, 3, 4, 6 and 7 under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Raymond et al. (United States Patent No. 3,999,413). The Office Action states that "Raymond teaches a locking mechanism including a lock shell 10 having a cavity rotatably receiving a cylinder 12 having a keyway 24, a plurality of tumblers 50, 70 to engage a portion 52 of the shell, a sidebar 16 movable in a direction perpendicular to the direction of movement of the tumblers, wherein the sidebar engages a raised surface (the inclined surface at 18 in fig. 6) relative to the bottom flat surface at the numeral 18 in fig. 6. Also, with respect to fig. 4, the sidebar engages a raised inclined surface relative to a bottom surface defined by the bottom of the cavity 46. The sidebars disengage the raised surface when the sidebar is unlocked and the cylinder is turned." Based on these comments, the Office Action rejected claims 1, 3, 4, 6, and 7 of the present application. For the following reasons, Applicants respectfully disagree.

Independent claims 1 and 4, as amended, recite, in pertinent part:

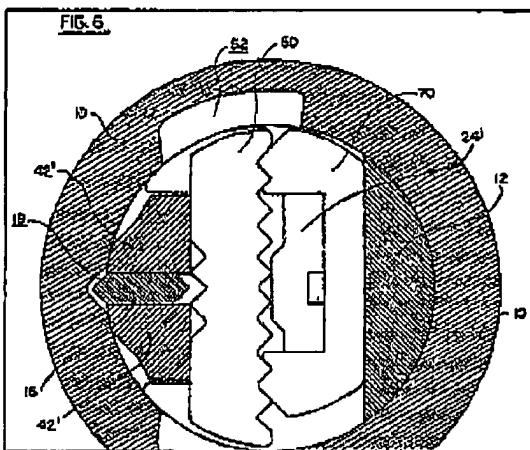
"*a removable lock cylinder having a keyway therein and rotateably disposed within said cylinder cavity...*

wherein said one or more sidebar members engages a raised surface located on said inner wall in said first position and disengages from said raised surface when in said second position, wherein engagement between said one or more sidebar members and said raised surface in said first position prevents said removable lock cylinder from being removed from said cylinder cavity." (emphasis added).

Independent claims 1 and 4 have been amended to clarify that the cylinder is removable from the cylinder cavity and that the engagement between the sidebars and the raised surface prevents the removal

of the lock cylinder from the cylinder cavity. As such, the sidebars must be retracted, or removed from engagement with the raised surface in order to remove the lock cylinder.

The lock cylinder described in Raymond is not removable. It does include a retention pin for allowing the lock to be reset, thereby providing for different key combinations to be used to unlock the lock. Furthermore, as can be seen in Figure 6 of Raymond, reproduced below for convenience, the pick bar (16) does not engage a raised surface located on the inner wall of the cylinder cavity. Instead, Raymond discloses a notch (18), part of which is raised in comparison to another part of the notch, wherein the notch receives the pick bar. Even further, even if the Raymond's cylinder was removable, since the notch is cut through the cylinder housing (10), the pick bar does not need to be retracted in order to remove the lock cylinder from the housing. Since Raymond does not teach each and every element of the claimed invention, independent claims 1 and 4, and their respective dependent claims, as not anticipated by Raymond. Reconsideration of this rejection is respectfully requested.



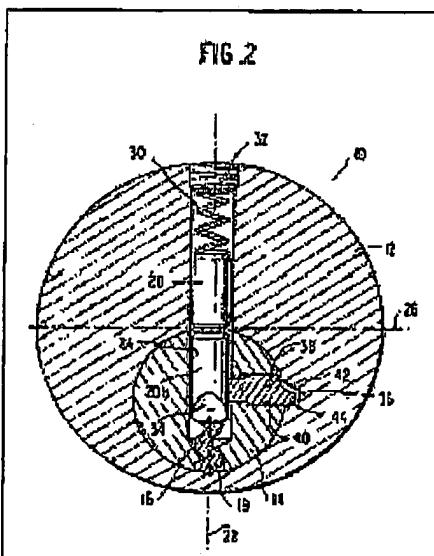
United States Patent No. 3,999,413 to Raymond - Figure 6

III. Rejection Under §102 - Kasper

The Office Action rejected the claims 1-7 and 9-13 under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kasper (United States Patent No. 6,257,154). The Office Action states that "Kasper teaches a lock shell 19 having a cavity 31 as seen in fig. 1 to rotatably receive a key cylinder 23, the lock cylinder is removable and can rotate between locked and unlocked positions, a plurality of tumblers 20 (see USPN 4,635,455 referred to in column 5, line 18 of Kasper) cooperable with a sidebar 38, wherein the key cylinder is only movable when it is rotated by retracting the sidebar to its unlocking position and rotatably disengaging portions 34, 35 of the cylinder of Kasper from the groove 32 of the shell. The sidebar of Oliver (455) engages and disengages a raised surface defined by the included surface 42 in figure 2, thereof, with respect to the flat bottom surface of the slot 36." Based on these comments, the Office

- Action concludes that claims 1-7 and 9-13 are anticipated by Kasper. For the following reasons, Applicants respectfully disagree.

Each independent claim, namely claims 1, 4 and 9, recite that the lock cylinder is removable and that the lock cylinder is only removable when disengaged from a raised surface of the lock shell. Kasper has little to do with the present invention, except for the fact that it incorporates the cylinder disclosed in Oliver (United States Patent No. 4,635,455). The cylinder in Oliver is not removable. Furthermore, as shown in Figure 2 reproduced below, Oliver discloses a typical side bar (38), i.e. one that engages a slot (36). Such a sidebar is used in conjunction with the lock tumblers to prevent rotation of the cylinder, and hence operation of the lock. Although a portion of the slot may be raised in relation to another portion of the slot, such portion does not provide a raised surface or portion on the inner wall of the cylinder cavity. In addition, the slot (36) of Oliver is cut through the shell, and thus the side bar does not need to be retracted to remove the cylinder from the shell, *providing the cylinder could be removed from the shell, which is not disclosed*. Since Oliver, and thus Kasper does not teach each and every element of the claimed invention, independent claims 1, 4 and 9, and their respective dependent claims, are not anticipated by Kasper. Reconsideration of this rejection is respectfully requested.



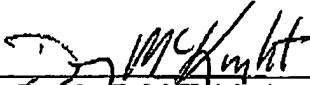
V. Conclusion

Based on the foregoing remarks and amendments, Applicant believes that all of the claims of this case are now in condition for allowance and an indication to that effect is respectfully requested. Furthermore, if the Examiner believes that additional discussions or information might advance the prosecution of this case, the Examiner should feel free to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 12/13/04

By:


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